

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 131000Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0180

S E C R E T CAIRO 9091

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECRE, EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE COE ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT

REF: STATE 211686

1. AS YOU KNOW FROM CAIRO 8695, I HAVE GONE AHEAD AS AUTHORIZED AND BROUGHT TWO COE OFFICERS FROM MEDDIV LEGHORN FOR THREE DAYS OF TDY TO ENABLE THEM CONSULT WITH SCA AUTHORITIES RE POSSIBLE SCOPE OF SCA WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CANAL. IN CONNECTION WITH STATE 211686, SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR HAS NOW MADE A JUDGMENT THAT HE WILL SEND TWO OR THREE PEOPLE TO US FOR 10 DAYS OR SO TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH GENERAL MORRIS AND TO SEE COE LABORATORIES. HE HAS DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO DEFER BRINGING OVER THE SIX PROFFERED ENGINEERS FOR 90 DAYS OF TDY AT HIS EXPENSE AND TO WAIT UNTIL AID MONEY IS AVAILABLE TO FUND THE COSTS.

2. AFTER CONSULTING WITH TEMPLETON OF AID, I INSTRUCTED THE TWO COE COLONELS THAT THEY SHOULD CONFINE THEIR DISCUSSIONS TO THOSE ASPECTS OF THE SUEZ CANAL WHICH COULD BE PROPERLY BE CONSTRUED AS RECONSTRUCTION RATHER THAN EXPANSION. THEY TELL ME THEY HAVE DONE SO. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO SAY THAT MASHOUR INSISTS THAT, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, THE SECRETARY AND FAHMY AGREED DURING THEIR AUGUST MEETING THAT COE MIGHT BE INVOLVED NOT ONLY IN RECONSTRUCTION BUT ALSO IN SUEZ CANAL EXPANSION

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PLANNING. SINCE I HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS BROADER MAN-

DATE, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE.

3. AID'S POINT IS THAT FOR REASONS HAVING TO DO WITH THE CONGRESS WHERE WE HAVE EMPHASIZED \$250 MILLION IS FOR RECONSTRUCTION, ALL OF OUR INITIAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD FOCUS ON RECONSTRUCTION RATHER THAN EXPANSION. I THINK IT IS SOUND.

EILTS

SECRET

NNN

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